

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed August 14, 2006. Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Applicants amend Claims 17, 18, 20, 21, and 22, and submit new Claim 31. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case in view of the following remarks.

Objections to the Abstract

The Office Action objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure because it is longer than 150 words. Applicants have amended the Abstract accordingly. Favorable action is requested.

Section 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 10, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 20040179518 issued to Bruckman et al ("*Bruckman*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,016,378 issued to Dasika, et al. ("*Dasika*"). Claims 2, 6, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bruckman* and *Dasika* as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 20040213236 issued to Hattori ("*Hattori*"). Claims 3, 11, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bruckman* and *Dasika* as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,625,165 issued to Krishnamoorthy, et al. ("*Krishnamoorthy*"). Claims 16, 18, 23, 24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bruckman* and in view of U.S. Publication No. 20050181831 issued to Doi ("*Doi*"). Claims 17, 20, 25, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bruckman* and *Doi* as applied to Claim 16 above and further in view of *Krishnamoorthy*. Claims 19 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bruckman* and *Doi* as applied to Claim 16 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,016,378 issued to Dasika, et al. ("*Dasika*"). Claims 21 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bruckman* and *Doi* as applied to Claims 16 and 23 above, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 20040213223 issued to Mori, et al. ("*Mori*"). Claims 22 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bruckman* and *Doi* as applied to Claims 16 and 23 above, and further in view of U.S.

Patent No. 6,888,853 issued to Jurgensen (“*Jurgensen*”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons described below.

Claim 1 is allowable at least because the cited references do not teach or suggest “providing at least one identifier to the second node, the at least one identifier identifying the occupied second time slots of the second frame.” The Office Action cites Page 5, paragraph 69 of *Bruckman* in rejecting this claim. The Office Action is incorrect. Rather, *Bruckman* is concerned with simultaneously changing network characteristics of all nodes in a network. *See Bruckman*, Page 5, paragraph 10. The cited portion merely describes a path trace identifier for verifying that the network paths between nodes are connected. *See Bruckman*, Page 5, paragraph 68. Assuming for the sake of argument that the above section discussed “providing at least one identifier” (*See Office Action*, Page 3), such a disclosure would still not disclose **the identifier identifying the occupied second time slots of the second frame**. For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is allowable, as are all claims depending therefrom.

Claims 8, 23, and new Claim 31 are allowable for analogous reasons. Claim 8 recites “providing at least one identifier to the at least one of the existing nodes, the identifier identifying the occupied time slots of the second frame.” As discussed above, the network verification process disclosed in *Bruckman* does not teach or suggest an identifier identifying the occupied second time slots of the second frame. Claim 23 recites “wherein the first node comprises at least one identifier identifying the occupied time slots of the second frame.” *Bruckman* does not teach or suggest nodes comprising an identifier identifying the occupied time slots of the second frame. New Claim 31 recites “wherein the existing node comprises at least one identifier identifying the occupied time slots of the second frame.” Once again, *Bruckman* does not teach or suggest existing nodes comprising an identifier identifying the occupied time slots of the second frame. For at least these reasons, Claims 8, 23, and new Claim 31 are allowable, as are all claims depending therefrom. Reconsideration and favorable action are requested.

Claim 16 is allowable at least because the cited references do not teach or suggest “a switch unit coupled to the bit transmission unit, the switch unit operable to generate a pattern of data that fills a number of the time slots of the second frame equal to N and to send the pattern of data to the bit transmission unit.” The Office Action concedes that *Bruckman* does not disclose the above limitations. *See Office Action*, Page 13. Rather, the Office Action

points to *Doi's* SW1 of Figure 1 as the alleged switch unit. The Office Action is again incorrect. Page 5, paragraph 89 generally describes SW1 of Figure 1 as a switching unit for switching connections between a transmission unit TP1 or a reception unit RP1 in accordance with a transmission mode or a reception mode. However, no details are given as to SW1 **generating a pattern of data that fills a number of the time slots of the second frame equal to N and to send the pattern of data to the bit transmission unit.** Lacking such details, SW1 of Figure 1 does not disclose the above limitations. For at least these reasons, Claim 16 is allowable, as are all claims depending therefrom. Reconsideration and favorable action are requested.

CONCLUSION

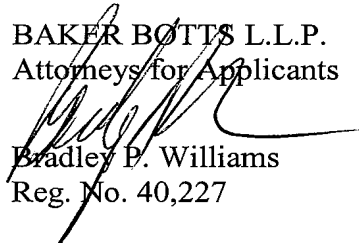
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge the fee of \$200.00 for adding one extra independent claim to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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11/8/06

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